



Indian Education For All Museum Educator Best Practices Program: Museums and Schools as Co-Educators

The Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Historical Society have formed a partnership to create Indian Education For All (IEFA) learning opportunities for museum practitioners and school teachers. A grant program titled, “Indian Education For All - Museum Educator Best Practices: Museums and Schools as Co-Educators,” will create partnerships between museum staff and public school teachers. Participants will gain knowledge about museum education best practices, connecting museums and classroom learning, and strengthening community learning partners. The overall project will result in an IEFA curriculum-based publication for all Montana museums and schools to use as they become co-educators in their communities.

The focus of this intensive 10 week program is for local museums to assist in the implementation of IEFA, therefore, Museum applicants must own a Montana Indian collection and must partner with one of their local public school districts. Because of the emphasis on IEFA, grant applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the OPI Indian Education Division website to learn more about this important work at: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/IndianEd/Index.html>. Focus should be given to the Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians as a direct connection to at least one Essential Understanding must be contained in the grant proposal. The Essential Understandings can be found at: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/indianed/resources/EssentialUnderstandings.pdf>.

Grantees will be required to attend a three day seminar at the Montana Historical Society and make learning trips to one of the remaining five nationally accredited Montana museums (Missoula Art Museum, C.M. Russell Museum, Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, Museum of the Rockies, and the Western Heritage Center).

Deadline for applications is 5 p.m., Monday, April 16, 2007. Awards will be announced on Friday, April 20. All funds must be expended, and all tasks completed, by June 30, 2007.

◇ Project Calendar

April 16	Grants Deadline
April 20	Awardees announced
May 7-25	Teams prepare for visit by Project Coordinator (begin preliminary cataloguing and budget planning that will be finalized with Coordinator.)
May 30-June 1	Seminar at Montana Historical Society, Helena
June 2-10	Teams travel to at least one accredited museum in Montana for workshop
June 30	Project coordinator, working with team members, completes report on “Indian Education For All Museum Educator Best Practices – A Guide for Innovative Interaction Between Montana Museums and Schools”

◇ Grant qualifications and criteria

1. Museum must own a Montana American Indian collection that is sizeable enough to display and is appropriate for use in K-12 schools.
2. American Indian collection must include accurate and authentic materials.
3. Team must consist of 2-3 members (at least one teacher and one museum employee per team).

◇ Grant application components

The application must be no longer than three (3) pages total (1.5 line spaced, 12 point font) and must include the following:

1. Introduction – provide a brief introduction to your museum and your current American Indian collection, including categories of pre-historic and historic artifacts, archival material, and traditional and contemporary American Indian art.
2. Work Plan – provide details to 1) expand ongoing collaboration with a local school district (include a brief history of past collaborative efforts), 2) increase awareness and access to American Indian collection and 3) promote IEFA through a demonstrated connection with at least one of the Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians (see link above).
3. Demonstrated need – state museum’s need for supplies, materials and/or equipment to enhance presentation of American Indian collection and to provide adequate preservation of collection.

(Only those grants that meet the line and page constraints will be considered.)

◇ Rubric

Applications will be scored on the following rubric, incorporating each of the Grant Application Components.

	Weak – Score of 1	Intermediate – Score of 3	Strong – Score of 5
Component 1	American Indian collection is insufficient for purposes of this grant.	American Indian collection is sizeable enough to warrant connection with K-12 system.	American Indian collection is sizable and varied enough for sustained connection with K-12 system
Component 2	Teacher and K-12 system involvement in project will be minimal.	Museum has, in the past, collaborated with area schools. Teacher and K-12 system involvement is moderate and project will increase schools’ understanding of the museum’s American Indian collection. Outlines plan to expand future ongoing IEFA collaboration between museum and area schools. Grant demonstrates basic understanding of IEFA and is linked to at least one Essential Understanding.	Museum has, in the past, provided an IEFA focused program for schools. Teacher and K-12 system involvement is extensive and project will increase schools’ and communities’ understanding of the museum’s American Indian collection. Outlines a detailed plan to expand future ongoing IEFA collaboration between museum and school and students. Grant demonstrates thorough understanding of IEFA and is linked to more than one Essential Understanding.
Component 3	Need for collection preservation is low.	Need for collection preservation is moderate.	Need for collection maintenance and preservation is high.

◇ Send completed applications to

Richard Sims
Montana Historical Society
PO Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201

◇ For more information contact

Richard Sims, Montana Historical Society – rsims@mt.gov – 406-444-5485
Or Mandy Smoker Broadus, Office of Public Instruction – mbroadus@mt.gov – 406-444-3013